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BEIJING REVIEW

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A CHINESE WEEKLY
OF
NEWS AND VIEWS



Factory Life in
China



Uphold and Improve
Party Leadership



Victory of
Zimbabwean People

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Life at a Chinese Factory

Our correspondent visits the Shanghai Bicycle Plant and sends back a report on what makes a Chinese factory run. By describing the life, work and thoughts of the workers, technicians and Party and trade union cadres, she has shed much light on the human factor underlying China's industrial strength (p. 17).

More on the Party Leadership

Renmin Ribao editorial elaborates on the significance of the recently concluded Fifth Plenary Session of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee (p. 15).

They Are With Us

Decades of transformation have made former industrialists and businessmen members of the Chinese working people who can contribute to the country's

modernization, and they should be treated as such (p. 5).

Zimbabwe: Successes And Pitfalls

Greeting Prime Minister Designate Mugabe, Premier Hua Guofeng calls his election a great victory for the Zimbabwean people (p. 3). Successes, pitfalls and external dangers there are discussed by our news analyst (p. 10).

Kampuchean Resistance, Yes: Vietnamese Expansion, No!

China reiterates support for the Kampuchean people's struggle (p. 3) and proposes to terminate the second round of Sino-Vietnamese talks (p. 3).

Which Way to Urbanize?

With 13 cities having a population of one million or more and an increasing number of others approaching the million mark, should China continue her metropolis building

or should she develop smaller towns instead? This was discussed at a recent Beijing forum (p. 6).

Population Trends

Demographers calculate that unless the 1975 growth rate of three children per family is checked, China's population will approach the 1979 world total by 2080; but if the present call for one child per family is realized, it will be cut down to 370 million (p. 28).

The Arts Are Alive

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FOREIGN
RELATIONS**Firm Support for
Kampuchean People's
Struggle**

"We Chinese people will continue to support the Kampuchean people's just struggle against aggression so long as Viet Nam does not stop its aggression in Kampuchea and the Kampuchean people have yet to regain their national rights," said Premier Hua Guofeng at the banquet given in Beijing on March 9 in honour of Prime Minister Khieu Samphan of Democratic Kampuchea on his visit to China.

Pointing out the increasing danger that aggression and expansion might continue, Premier Hua said, "In order to realize their ambition for re-

gional hegemony and serve the interests of Soviet strategic deployments in the Asia-Pacific region, the Vietnamese authorities are intensifying their war of aggression in Kampuchea and tightening their control of Laos and are engaged in a frenzied and hostile anti-China campaign. They are gravely menacing the peace and stability of Southeast Asia. All this has aroused the increasingly strong opposition of the people of the world, especially of the Indo-Chinese and Southeast Asian countries."

The key to a settlement of the Kampuchean question, he stated, was that Viet Nam must honour the resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly at its 34th session, and withdraw all its aggressor forces from Kampuchea so that the Kampuchean people might decide their own destiny free from foreign interference.

**Three Principles for Solution to
Afghan Issue**

The solution to the Afghan issue "lies primarily in the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country," said Vice-Premier Li Xiannian at a meeting on March 10 with Richard Thornburgh, Governor of Pennsylvania, and other members of the Pennsylvania technical and trade delegation he led.

Referring to the other two principles, Vice-Premier Li said: "Let the Afghan people

solve their own problems." "It is completely justified for the people of the world to support the Afghan people in their just struggle against Soviet aggression. This support cannot be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan."

"Departing from these three principles, the so-called political or other solutions are all unrealistic," the Vice-Premier pointed out.

**Greetings to Zimbabwean
Prime Minister-Designate
Mugabe**

Premier Hua Guofeng on March 8 sent a message of greetings to Robert Mugabe, President of the Zimbabwe African National Union which won a sweeping victory in the Rhodesian independence elections.

The message reads: "This is a major victory of historic significance for the protracted struggles for the independence of Zimbabwe carried on by the Zimbabwe African National Union together with other patriotic forces."

"We sincerely wish Your Excellency new successes in the noble cause of building an independent and prosperous Zimbabwe by rallying all the patriotic forces." (For report on the election results see p. 10.)

**Proposal to End Round Two
Of Sino-Vietnamese
Negotiations**

Ten sessions were held in the nine-month second round of Sino-Vietnamese negotiations at vice-ministerial level, but without any progress. And there is no sign that the views of the two sides have come any nearer to each other.

The very aim of the negotiations is to restore the ties of friendship which once existed between the two countries, and to normalize their relations. For this purpose, in its eight-point proposal of principle put forward during the negotiations, the Chinese Government delegation has given first place to the Five Principles of Peaceful

Coexistence and the principle of seeking no hegemony as the general principles to be followed in handling the two countries' relations. The delegation pointed out that to normalize Sino-Vietnamese relations and maintain peace and tranquillity in Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole, it is crucial to proceed from a position of opposing hegemonism. However, the Vietnamese side not only stubbornly rejected the proposal, but also declared that it will continue its military occupation of Kampuchea.

What warrants particular attention is that, since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Vietnamese authorities have moved in co-ordination with the Soviet strategy for a southward thrust and stepped up their offensive along the Kampuchean-Thai border. At the same time, they have redoubled their hostile activities against China. In the first two months of this year, there were 360 provocations perpetrated by the Vietnamese armed forces along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

The Vietnamese side has failed to show any sincerity but attempted to use the negotia-

tions to deceive public opinion. In view of this, the Chinese Foreign Ministry suggested in a note to the Foreign Ministry of Viet Nam on March 6 that "the second round of the Sino-Vietnamese negotiations be concluded now so that the two sides may have a necessary period of time for a serious study of each other's views and propositions and a search for ways to resolve their disputes. The third round of negotiations may be held in Hanoi at a time considered appropriate by both sides in the latter half of 1980."

This is a down-to-earth proposal. It may be more beneficial for the two sides to meet and negotiate again some time later when and if the Vietnamese side after a period of consideration really feels the necessity to resolve the problem.

POLITICAL

International Working Women's Day

Defending world peace, opposing aggression and striving

for the realization of the four modernizations are the wishes of Chinese women. These were also the keynote in the various activities around March 8 marking the 70th anniversary of International Working Women's Day in China.

At a rally attended by 3,500 Chinese and foreign women in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Soong Ching Ling, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Honorary President of the National Women's Federation, stressed:

— Chinese women love peace and hope to build their country into a better land amid a peaceful environment of stability. But the hegemonists big and small are making the present world very unstable, which endangers world peace and the safety of the women and children of all countries. So, the Chinese women and the women of all other countries condemn intervention and aggression from abroad, support the struggle for national independence and safeguard the interests of women and children.

Left: Zhou Zhenying, 79, a professor in Fujian Teachers' University, is writing a book on algology. Middle: Li Xiufen, an educated youth who returned to work in her home village in Shandong Province, is a Deputy to the 5th National People's Congress. Right: Zhang Zhenzhu (right) and Zhang Zhenying, two sisters, are both skilled textile workers in Shandong Province.



—Chinese women are determined, shoulder to shoulder with the men, to build China into a modern and powerful socialist country.

—Chinese women will also shoulder the responsibility of nurturing and educating the next generation.

The various activities in the capital included: a rally attended by 17,000 celebrated women's movement leaders, women model workers, women P.L.A. commanders and fighters, and women representatives from all walks of life, a forum participated in by over 100 women scientists and the showing of some films centring on the life of women.

The women's liberation movement in China has a glorious history. During the strenuous era of revolution in the past, there emerged many outstanding women figures. And during socialist construction, large numbers of women model workers and exemplary women's collectives have come to the fore. Their names are cited by many in the country. Now, "the half of the sky," a term given to Chinese women, are playing a more and more significant role in the drive for the country's four modernizations.

They Are With Us

Sun Fuling, a leading member of the Beijing Federation of Industry and Commerce, recently told a Xinhua reporter that 30,000 former industrialists and businessmen in the capital who went through the socialist transformation campaign in 1956 are now working for China's modernization.

The 59-year-old Sun said: "The federation has recommended former industrialists and businessmen with special management and production skills to the appropriate government departments. We also often meet to discuss how to help the state realize the four modernizations. Some of our suggestions have been accepted and put into effect by the government."

Some of the former industrialists and businessmen have been appointed advisors to newly established services and productive co-ops and others are taking part in leading work in the municipal organs, factories or workshops. Sun himself was the owner of a large flour mill and is now vice-director of the Beijing Foreign Trade Bureau.

These people have now been transformed into working people and are enjoying the same political treatment as the other workers and staff members in their own units. In the election of delegates to the congresses of workers and staff, for instance, they also enjoy the right to vote and stand for election. This em-

bodies the Party's policy of giving equal treatment to these people.

But there have been some problems. On February 29, *Renmin Ribao* carried an article by a special commentator pointing out: In certain units, some cadres who have expertise and have made contributions were not treated fairly for a long time simply because they had inherited their father's businesses on the eve of liberation and became capitalists or had relatives abroad. They are still discriminated against today and regarded as untrustworthy by some Party comrades.

In China, the article went on, small traders and artisans are all within the category of the labouring people and have been on our own side. As for the former capitalists, the overwhelming majority have been transformed into people who live by their own labour. They support the Party leadership and socialist system, and the class antagonism between them and the working class disappeared long ago. The common interests and desire to modernize



Zhang Bingqian (right), a former industrialist specializing in machine tools, is now chief engineer in a Shanghai plant.

China have linked them with the working class and formed a new comradely relationship of co-operation.

The article stressed that the former capitalists have become masters of our socialist society. They are on our side and, therefore, we should treat them on a comradely basis.

Party and government departments concerned should properly treat the cadres who were former industrialists and businessmen (including those intellectuals among the cadres who were capitalists or agents of capitalists) according to their present posts. Attention should be paid to the following:

- To promote and properly place those people who have special expertise, support the Party's line and policy, have a strong sense of responsibility for the revolutionary cause and have leadership abilities.
- In places where administrative leaders are chosen through democratic election, these people should have the right to vote and stand for election just as Communists and other people do.
- Those holding leading posts should be given power commensurate with their posts. They must not be regarded as mere decoration.
- Party members who are subordinates must respect their authority and support them in their work.
- Non-communist cadres and communist cadres on the same level should be treated alike in appraisal, promotion, wage increases, rewards and other things.
- Concern should be shown for their studies. They should not be discriminated against in the selections for going abroad or attending technical conferences.

International Law Society Founded

The International Law Society of China was founded in Beijing at a meeting that lasted four days.

Those attending the meeting held academic discussions on such problems as international law and human rights, hegemonism and international law, the legal status of outer space, and the problem of the continental shelf in the law of the sea.

The meeting adopted a constitution which stipulates that the society's purpose is, under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, to unite with the scientists of international law, strengthen academic activities in this field, and promote the development of China's study of international law so as to serve the needs of the country's socialist modernization and international contacts.

Forty-two council members of the society were elected and so were its president, vice-presidents and secretary-general. A partial list of their names follows:

President: Huan Xiang, Vice-President of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Vice-presidents: Chen Ti-qiang, research fellow of the Research Institute of International Problems and professor of Beijing University; Wang Tieya, professor of the law department and director of the teaching and research group of international law, Beijing University; Ren Jianxin, director of the department of legal affairs of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade; Rui Shu, deputy director of the Institute of Jurisprudence of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and professor of

the law department of Beijing University; Wang Daohan, deputy director of the Foreign Investment Commission; Shao Tianren, deputy director of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Treaty and Law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Zhang Huiwen, professor of the Institute of Jurisprudence of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, vice-president of the Shanghai Law Society and council member of the Shanghai International Relations Society.

Secretary-general: Xu Hegao, head of the international law research department of the Institute of Jurisprudence of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

ECONOMIC

Two Views on China's Urbanization

There is a process of urbanization in every country as it is being industrialized. What are the characteristics of this process in China? Should emphasis be placed on developing big cities or the numerous small cities and towns? This was discussed in a lively way at a recent forum in Beijing on urban population and economy.

This discussion was attended by 31 representatives from city construction departments and research institutes. There were mainly two different views expressed at the forum.

Some people proposed that the development of big cities, especially their size, should be kept under control. China now has 13 big cities (see map on p. 7) with a population of over one million each and if

nearby agricultural population is included, there are 29 such cities*. That is quite a large number. They said that because Beijing is too large, the ground water table has been lowered gradually; and because Shanghai proper is too crowded, its layout is irrational and its environment dirty.

They stressed the need to develop small cities and towns throughout the country and ex-

mune seats are developed into small towns in each county, there will be an increase of over 10,000 towns all over the country.

If each town has a population of 20,000 people, these towns can absorb over 200 million people. If the population in each town grows to 50,000, then they can absorb over 500 million people. In this way, with the exception of a few mountain and sparsely populated districts, most of the areas in the nation can do business with these towns. Economic links of a town can extend to places within a radius of 10 to 15 kilometres.

Other representatives proposed that China's urbanization should proceed along two lines. One is developing cities of all sizes which are based on modern industry and in co-ordination with each other; the other is developing towns based on commune- and brigade-run enterprises.

But the emphasis for the present, they said, should be placed on the construction of big and medium-sized cities. This is because, they observed, the cities cannot truly fulfil their functions if they are too small. Implementation of the policy of building small cities and towns in China over the years has proved that there were more failures than successes.

For instance, the output value, profits and products provided by industries in small cities and towns in the interior fall far behind those in the

coastal big cities. In the latter, labour productivity is high and their potential great, so only when big cities are developed is it possible to support the construction of small cities and towns.

Xianning Learns From Shanghai

What should be done to improve the technology and management in most of the enterprises, especially those located in the interior of the country, which have a weak technological base?

Xianning's experience in seeking technical assistance from Shanghai—an old industrial base of the country—has proved to be an economical and convenient way which can be applied to other parts of the country.

Xianning Prefecture in Hubei Province, central-south China, is rich in natural resources and its industry has been fairly well developed. However, its technology and management left much to be desired. Beginning last June, the industrial departments there organized their subordinate enterprises to learn from Shanghai's experiences, which quickened their technical transformation and raised their output. The measures they adopted were as follows:

- Invited from Shanghai 140 experienced veteran workers and technicians, most of them retired, as technical advisors and master workers for 40 enterprises in the prefecture. Each of them was given the task of training three or four



by Shi Yitu

pand commune- and brigade-run enterprises so as to absorb the surplus labour force resulting from agricultural mechanization. There are more than 2,000 counties in the whole country. If five people's com-

*Sixteen other such cities are: Zibo, Jinan and Zaozhuang in Shandong Province; Liaoyang, Luda and Anshan in Liaoning Province; Kunming, Yunnan Province; Guiyang, Guizhou Province; Zhengzhou, Henan Province; Lanzhou, Gansu Province; Pingxiang, Jiangxi Province; Tangshan, Hebei Province; Baotou, Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region; Fuzhou, Fujian Province; Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province; and Qiqihar, Heilongjiang Province.

workers. The contract lasts for two years.

- Organized local enterprises to establish direct contacts with factories in Shanghai, which sent technical personnel to guide the overall technical transformation, and thus raise their products to advanced levels.

- Set up joint ventures with Shanghai factories so as to get their technical assistance.

Workers and technicians from Shanghai have put forward more than 900 proposals since last June, of which 600 have been carried out. As a result, 140 technological processes have been improved, and 130 pieces of equipment or machines have been renovated or built. Many benefited factories have taken on a new look.

For instance, the yarn-dyed fabrics turned out by a mill were unsalable on the market and the mill was about to stop production. With the guidance of a chief engineer, an engineer and nine workers from Shanghai, the technical problems in the processes of pattern designing, bleaching, dyeing and weaving were solved quickly, and its fabrics began to sell well on the market.

A towel mill in the prefecture could not get into production for three years after it was completed because of some technical problems. Eleven workers from the Shanghai Towel Mill took only three months to solve the problems and the Xianning mill produced its first batch of towels.

Renmin Ribao recently republished a *Hubei Ribao* commentary on Xianning's learning from Shanghai. The commentary said: After 30 years of strenuous work, China has built up a fairly strong material and technological base and the Chinese workers have invented many advanced technical devices. To quicken the pace of the four modernizations, it is necessary to make full use of the existing technological base and the industrial metropolises and to popularize the domestic scientific and technological achievements. Our socialist system has provided the conditions for us to do so.

Coal Deposits — Enough to Last Five Centuries

At the end of last year, verified coal deposits throughout China exceeded 600,000 million tons. That is enough to last 500 years if the deposits

were mined at the same rate as last year's 620 million tons, and their rate of extraction was 50 per cent.

China's widely dispersed coal resources have a satisfactory variety. There are varying amounts of coal deposits in 27 out of the 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions on the Chinese mainland. Among them, Shanxi Province has as much as 200,000 million tons and each of the following autonomous regions and provinces — Inner Mongolia, Guizhou, Anhui, Shaanxi, Henan, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Hebei and Heilongjiang — has more than 15,000 million tons.

China is very rich in coal. The verified coal deposits account for just a fraction of the total. It will do much prospecting of coal fields in the future.

CULTURE

Discussion of Controversial Scripts

An unprecedented flourishing of the arts has been occurring in China during the last three years. A number of talented young writers have dared to probe into the complexities of modern day life. In the 300 plays produced during this unique period, new heroes and heroines have been created, reflecting the spirit of the times. But recently two topics with mass appeal have emerged — juvenile delinquency and criticism of certain leading cadres for enjoying special privileges and for their bureaucratic tendencies. How to handle these subjects was the theme of a meeting held in Beijing for



A headframe under construction in the Huainan Coal Mine.

writers of movie and play scripts.

The script *What If I Were Real* (also known as *The Impostor*) was one of many discussed in great detail. Written by several young playwrights from the Shanghai People's Art Theatre, it depicts the machinations of Li Xiaozhang, who was working as an educated youth on a farm. While visiting Shanghai, Li poses as a high cadre's son and tries to use the alias to secure a transfer from the countryside to the city. He takes in several leading cadres he meets. They are not in the least suspicious because of their elitist thinking and their desire to seek personal gain. Li is on the verge of success when the high cadre visits the city and exposes the hoax.

During the discussion, the authors explained their purpose for writing this play and their point of view. Some participants were of the opinion that the play had a positive effect for it was true to life and well-received during the trial performances. Others thought the general trend of the script was not good and the story unrealistic. The majority affirmed the good intentions of the young writers but also pointed out the serious shortcomings in the play. They felt that the writers should expose and criticize those leading cadres who enjoy privileges, have elitist thinking and are bureaucratic, but they should also show an awareness that these phenomena are incompatible with the nature of the Communist Party and are illegal in a socialist country. Additionally, the writers should also take note of the positive social forces that are trying to overcome these bad tendencies.

As for juvenile delinquency, most of the writers expressed the view that it was inappropriate to describe the degeneration and despondency of the young people in a gloomy fashion or to elaborate their crimes in a naturalistic way. The blame should be placed squarely on Lin Biao and the gang of four, whose ideas harmed the young people, and to describe the efforts to save and win over these young people.

After the discussion, the consensus was that art and literature should reflect life as it is. First of all, writers ought to have a clear understanding of the times. China is now in an era in which the new is superseding the old. The march for the four modernizations and the emergence of new men and new ways are the mainstream and direction of our times. However, the dregs left over from the old society are surfacing once again because of the chaos since 1966. It is the writers' duty to praise the new and attack the old.

They also agreed that the social effect of a piece of writing should not be judged merely by box office returns or audience reaction. A work should stand the test of time. At present, the criterion for judging the social effect of a script is to see whether it promotes the modernizations and helps to elevate people's awareness.

The meeting, which was jointly sponsored by the Chinese Dramatists' Association, the Chinese Writers' Association and the Chinese Film Artists' Association and which was under the guidance of the Party Central Committee, provided an opportunity for Party leaders to exchange opinions with script

writers. Democracy prevailed and the writers aired their views freely. All agreed that it was wrong to put political labels on a work or a writer as was the case in the past. To encourage a flourishing of the art and literature in the new period, it is necessary to study art and literary theory and to have good literary criticism. At the same time, Party leadership over art and literature should be strengthened and improved.

Foreign Scholars and Students in China

More than 370 professors and specialists from 13 countries were invited last year by the Chinese Ministry of Education to give lectures on physics, chemistry, industrial chemistry, electronics, metals, construction, high-energy physics, psychology, pedagogics, economics, law, foreign literature and linguistics.

Among them were Nobel Prize winners, heads of academic societies and other well-known scholars.

Their lectures have proved very helpful to teachers and students of Chinese institutes of higher learning and research personnel in keeping abreast of academic developments abroad.

There are over 1,300 foreign students from 77 countries studying in China today, a record number for any year. They are studying at 40 colleges in Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin and in Liaoning, Jilin, Shaanxi, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Guangdong Provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Their courses include liberal arts, physics, engineering, medical science, agronomy as well as physical culture. (See p. 27.)

Zimbabwean People's Great Victory

THE Zimbabwe African National Union has been authorized to form the first government of black majority rule in Zimbabwe. This marks the end of the prolonged colonial rule and white minority domination of the country and reflects the realization of the common aspirations of the black people.

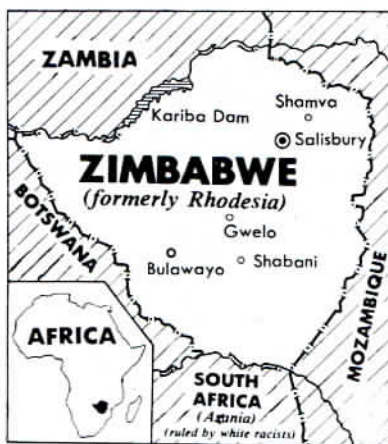
Prime Minister-Designate, Robert Mugabe, said at a press conference on March 4 that the victory of the Rhodesian independence elections is "a victory for the Patriotic Front as a whole." The new government, first of all, should be put on a footing of unity between the Zimbabwe African National Union and the Zimbabwe African People's Union. It will necessarily be a government of the Patriotic Front, said Mugabe, but it will not be restricted to the Front. He said that he would hold consultations with Joshua Nkomo so as to establish a broad-based national front government to include as many members as possible from other communities inside Zimbabwe.

People's Aspirations

The final results of the elections were announced on March 4. The Zimbabwe African National Union led by Robert Mugabe won a landslide victory.

According to the announcement by the chief scrutineer, Mugabe's party won 62 per cent of the 2,649,529 votes and 57 of the 80 black seats in the 100-member House of Assembly, and the Zimbabwe African People's Union of Joshua Nkomo 24 per cent of the votes and 20 seats.

Eight per cent of the ballot and the remaining 3 black seats went to Bishop Muzorewa's United African National Council. None of the other parties managed to get a seat.



Sketch map by Zhu Yulian

The 20 seats reserved for the white population of the country were taken by the Rhodesian Front of Ian Smith, leader of the former white minority regime, in an election held on February 14.

According to the London agreement, the party which wins more than half of the seats in the House of Assembly (at least 51 seats) is to form the government. The new government will take over power from the British governor who is now administering Rhodesian affairs on an interim basis, and declare Rhodesia's independence from Britain. The independent country will be renamed Zimbabwe.

Merely a First Step

The road before the Zimbabwean people will not be without obstacles. The establishment of a new government of black majority rule is merely the first

step in implementing the London agreement. There are still arduous tasks ahead. For instance, the government will face the question of how to build the army. This is a vital issue affecting the independence and peace of Zimbabwe. The troops of South Africa have still to pull out. The Rhodesian troops, the security forces in particular, are still active. Several hundred thousand firearms are still in the hands of the white people. If timely and proper solutions to these problems are not found, it is difficult to ensure the further implementation of the London agreement and peace in the country. The people are watching with concern.

Danger of Superpower Meddling

The new Zimbabwean Government will be soon established in accordance with the London agreement. The superpower which has been scheming to meddle in Zimbabwean affairs is naturally unhappy. It has long had its eye on Zimbabwe, which is rich in resources and of strategic importance, and also on the whole of southern Africa. That superpower will seize the first opportunity to exploit the difficulties on the Zimbabwean people's road of advance and to fish in troubled waters. The Zimbabwean people and the people of the African frontline countries need to be ever on guard against this.

The victory of the Zimbabwean people in the elections is the result of their prolonged and united struggle and, at the same time, it is inseparable from the support given by the various African countries and people, the frontline countries in



Zimbabweans greet news of election victory.

southern Africa in particular. No matter what twists and turns may crop up on their road forward, the Zimbabwean people are expected to strengthen their unity further and

make new contributions to peace and prosperity in the independent Zimbabwe.

—“Beijing Review” news analyst Gu Fen

Voice of Justice From ASEAN and E.E.C. Countries

THE ASEAN and E.E.C. foreign ministers held a two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur, discussing the invasions of Afghanistan and Kampuchea and the question of promoting co-operation between the two sides.

On March 7, the foreign ministers climaxed their meeting with a joint political statement calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea in compliance with the U.N. resolutions.

At an informal meeting on March 6, the foreign ministers shared the view that the events in Afghanistan and Kampuchea are part of the Kremlin's global expansion.

Linking the Afghan issue with that of Kampuchea, the joint political statement points out that both “have as a common denominator the imposition of will on small independent states by foreign powers through the use of force in open violation of international law, thereby threatening international peace and security.” It calls on the U.N. Secretary-General to take steps to carry into effect the U.N. resolutions on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and Kampuchea.

Thus, the meeting has taken into full account the reality in the two countries and has grasped the key to the resolution of these two critical international issues.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea are acts of aggression pure and simple. Their immediate, unconditional and total withdrawal of troops from the two countries is a prerequisite for a settlement. To budge from this demand is to do a disservice to the Afghan and Kampuchean people and the world and to help the aggressors.

Both the Soviet Union and Viet Nam have proclaimed that they would withdraw as soon as “outside interference” or “threat” is terminated. This is a manoeuvre to put the blame for the present crisis on others and legalize their own naked acts of aggression. The stress laid by ASEAN and E.E.C. foreign ministers on the need for complying with the U.N. resolutions was absolutely necessary.

No aggressor can be expected to surrender what he has wrested for himself. Singapore Foreign Minister Rajaratnam warned on the eve of the meeting that moral support alone cannot end military aggression. “If we don't meet the challenge effectively, we must be prepared for new Afghanistans and Kampuchesas,” he said.

The people of both Afghanistan and Kampuchea have risen up to fight the invaders for national liberation. Other peoples are duty-bound to give moral and material support to their just struggle. Resolutions or statements alone will not force Moscow and Hanoi to quit the two nations, and it is necessary to back up the Afghan and Kampuchean people and put the aggressors to the rack of people's war.

In addition, the international community needs to enforce

extensive and effective sanctions against the Soviet and Vietnamese aggressors.

With the signing of the agreement on economic co-operation between the ASEAN and EEC on March 7, the economic relations between the two regional organizations have entered into

a new phase of development. Regional political and economic co-operation between second and third world countries will be conducive to their co-ordinated struggle against hegemonism.

— *Xinhua Commentary*

Korea

The Door Is Reopened for Dialogue

A FRESH change took place in the dialogue between north and south Korea in January. On January 11, Vice-President Kim Il and Premier of the Administrative Council Li Jong Ok of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent letters to the responsible persons in south Korea, proposing direct talks. In his reply on January 24, Prime Minister Sin Hyon Hwak of south Korea agreed to hold talks on the premier level. To prepare for them, both sides appointed their working-level representatives and had three contacts on February 6, 19 and March 4.

In arranging for the premiers' meeting, both sides had different opinions on the venue and agenda, but reached a six-point agreement on procedural matters. Both sides also agreed to restore direct telephone lines and to have another contact on March 18.

However, when the delegates of both sides were trying to make arrangement for the premiers' meeting, more than 100,000 U.S.-south Korean troops were conducting a large-scale military exercise in the name of repelling a supposed surprise attack. The exercise will last 51 days.

It is obvious that the exercise, started on March 1, is intended to create an atmosphere of no confidence in the north and it is unfavourable to the north-south dialogue. This shows that the threats to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula come not from the north but from the south.

Korean People's Aspiration. To reunify as early as possible Korea which has remained divided for 30 years is the entire Korean people's common aspiration. To have this aspiration come true, it is necessary to ease the tension on the Korean Peninsula, to stop military actions and exercises which threaten the other side as an enemy, and to carry out dialogue which would bring both sides closer to each other.

In a statement on August 6, 1971, President Kim Il Sung expressed his hope that there would be contacts with all the political parties, social organizations and personages in south Korea. This statement gave expression to the Korean people's aspiration and resulted in the beginning of the north-south dialogue.

In May 1972, President Kim Il Sung put forward three prin-

ciples for promoting the peaceful reunification of Korea: independence, peaceful reunification of the fatherland and national unity. In June 1973, he put forward five propositions: to remove the state of military confrontation; to realize collaboration and interchange in all fields; to convene a great national assembly of representatives of people of all strata so as to realize national unity; to maintain temporarily the existing social systems of the north and south and to institute a north-south confederation under the name of a single state; and to be opposed to the two-Korea conspiracy.

Later, the north on many occasions reaffirmed these proposals and took measures to stop hostile propaganda against the south. However, because the Pak Jung Hi clique was insincere in solving problems, and arrested and murdered patriots who stood for national unity and reunification, dialogues between north and south were broken off on many occasions over the past eight years.

After Pak Jung Hi was killed last October, the north again took the initiative and proposed contacts between responsible politicians of both sides, a proposal which won south Korea's favourable response. Hence the reopening of the door for dialogue. Naturally, some progress is expected in the current dialogue.

Armed Threats Will Not Do. The joint military exercise of U.S.-south Korean troops along the Han Gang River and on the sea off south Korea has reminded people who concern themselves with the dialogue that the United States still has tens of thousands of troops in south Korea and is providing it with

tanks, fighter planes, missiles and other arms and equipment. This is in violation of the Korean people's fundamental interests.

It is clear that to secure a peaceful settlement of the problem of Korea, the United States should create favourable conditions for the reunification of Korea, pull its armed forces out of south Korea as early as possible and leave the problem of reunification to the Korean people.

Though the south Korean authorities have recently renounced "emergency measures"

and set free some democrats under the guise of "democratic development," they have not made a fundamental change in Pak Jung Hi's "Yusin system." While making contacts with the north, they arrested and persecuted patriots and students who are calling for the reunification of their fatherland. The south Korean authorities need to face reality squarely and stop suppressing the south Korean people and making provocations against the north. No armed threats will work.

— "Beijing Review" news analyst An Ding

Egypt and Israel Establish Diplomatic Relations

EGYPT and Israel, who fought four wars during 30 years of antagonism, have exchanged ambassadors and established formal diplomatic relations.

On February 18, the Israeli flag was hoisted over the Israeli Embassy in Cairo under tight security measures around the embassy buildings. Among those present at the ceremony was an Israeli journalist group of 46. But no Egyptian reporter attended. As the flag was unfurled, some Egyptian women in the vicinity were heard sobbing. Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy had left deep scars because of the great losses it had inflicted on the Egyptian people. President Sadat himself said: It was not easy to be rid of the all hostility, bitterness and hatred in a short period. An article in the Egyptian paper *Al Ahram* remarked that most of the people in Egypt supported the government taking the road to peace, but there was still some opposition.

Some Arab countries held rallies protesting the establish-

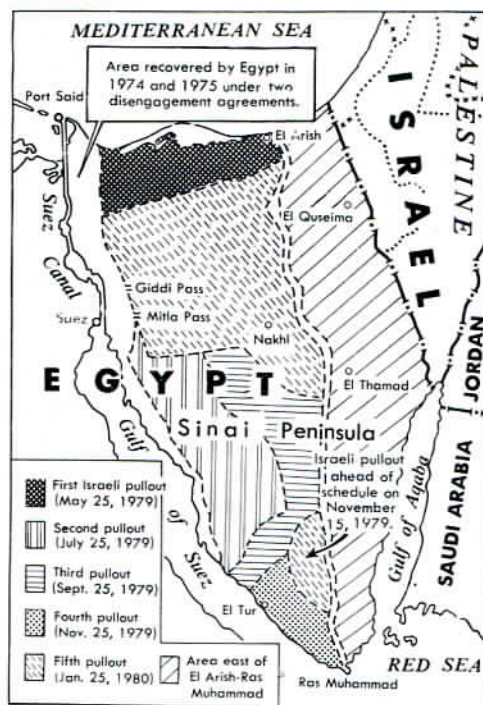
ment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Israel Pulls Out of the Sinai Peninsula. The normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel was carried out in accordance with the peace treaty they concluded in March last year, which stipulated that they would exchange ambassadors within ten months of the ratification of the treaty by them. It also provided that Israel was to phase out its troops from most of the Sinai Peninsula to the El Arish-Ras Muhammad line — from an area where there are ten military airstrips, a big oilfield and some strategic points.

Under the Egypt-Israel peace treaty, Israeli troops stationed in the area east of the El Arish-Ras Muhammad line would, within three years of the ex-

change of instruments of ratification, be withdrawn to the area east of the 1948 international borderline. Egyptian Defence Minister Aly announced that his country would enter into talks with Israel soon on the last-stage withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Prospect for Egypt-Israel Relations. With the establishment of Egypt-Israel diplomatic relations, mail, telephone and cable communications between them were begun and their borders opened. Egypt announced the end of its boycott of Israeli goods. Despite all this, leaders of the two countries still differ over the question of autonomous rule for Palestine. Egypt insists on complete self-rule for the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip (including self-rule for the Palestine people and territorial autonomy); the abolishment of Israeli military government in the area immediately after the establishment of self-rule administrative organs; the realiza-



Sketch map by Zhu Yulian

tion of autonomy for the Palestine people through negotiations during the five-year transitional period of self-rule; and the return of East Jerusalem to the Arab people. Begin, however, insists that self-rule only applies to the inhabitants of the two above-mentioned areas and does not mean self-rule for the areas. He also says: Self-rule is limited and the military government cannot be abolished; Israel will still hold "sovereignty" over the areas after the transitional period and there must be no establishment of the state of Palestine; and Jerusalem is Israel's inseparable capital.

Early this year, Israel for the first time made known a 26-point programme on the question of self-rule for Palestine. According to the programme,

Palestine's foreign affairs, national defence, postal service and the exploitation of natural resources are to be handled by Israel. It is actually a programme of colonialization.

It cannot be imagined that Israel's policy of aggression and expansion will contribute to the further development of the Egypt-Israel relations. People are now wondering whether the two countries can reach an agreement before May 26 — the deadline set for the end of negotiations on self-rule for the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip. Future developments in Egypt-Israel relations will certainly be influenced from many sides. It will be slow, tortuous and, sometimes, run into setbacks.

— by Xin Ping

Strife in El Salvador

THE political situation in El Salvador is growing more turbulent as the civilian-military junta is attacked by both the anti-government organizations and Rightist forces.

The junta which replaced the Romero regime last October has promised to reinstate democratic procedures and to introduce a series of reforms. But anti-government organizations charge that it has gone back on its word and is stepping up repression.

On the other hand, Rightist army officers and big businessmen are vehemently against any reform. For weeks, rumours have been circulating that a Rightist coup is brewing.

A united front was formed by four anti-government organizations last January. In February their members occupied the

Panamanian and Spanish Embassies, the national aqueduct administration offices and the payroll office of the Education Ministry and held a large number of hostages to press their demand for the release of political prisoners. At a mass rally in the University of El Salvador on February 26, the front announced a plan which includes land reform, nationalization of banks, foreign trade and other industries, dissolution of the present armed forces, and the formation of a "revolutionary democratic government." The following day, the junta announced it had taken three leaders of these organizations into custody and was planning to put them on trial. The organizations immediately declared that they would start a massive anti-government campaign to demand

the release of their leaders.

Anti-government armed forces have operated in the capital city of San Salvador, throwing up street barriers, attacking cars and exchanging fire with national guardsmen. Guerrillas have also been active in the capital and other cities.

This was accompanied by growing violence and terrorism unleashed by the extreme Rightists. In a communique of February 25 the junta condemned the Rightists for murdering the Attorney General Mario Zamora Rivas.

It is reported that the junta still wants to introduce some reforms to alleviate the acute social contradictions while maintaining a measure of repression in order to bring the situation under control. A junta communique on February 26 again promised reforms, including the nationalization of banks and foreign trade, and denounced the growing political violence by certain groups, saying that it "is leading the country towards disaster."

The United States has shown its concern. It is worried, as the *London Times* pointed out on February 27, that the Cuban-influenced Nicaraguan "revolutionary contagion could spread to El Salvador" and other Central American countries. Washington was reported to be granting El Salvador 50 million dollars in economic aid and a small amount of military aid. U.S. State Department spokesman Reston said on February 22 that "We stand for change in El Salvador — measured change without further violence." He warned El Salvador's military Rightists that U.S. relations with that country would be impaired if they succeed in blocking the junta's reform programme.

Uphold and Improve Party Leadership

THE Fifth Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party has come to a triumphant end. It has studied and solved some weighty problems confronting the Party and adopted a number of important resolutions.

The development of the situation throughout the country has been very fast since the convocation of the 11th Party Congress, more so since the convocation of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee. A lively political situation characterized by stability and unity is shaping up. Our construction for the four modernizations is now proceeding on lines of sound development and the first battle—readjustment of the national economy—has already yielded initial fruitful results. As we enter the 1980s we find the situation very good, having prepared the ground for victorious advance in every field. In making arrangements for its work as a whole, the Party Central Committee has a general guiding thought and a general goal in mind, that is, to consolidate and develop the political situation of stability, unity and liveliness in a sustained way, to make full use of favourable external and internal conditions, and to work hard as pioneers for the good of the country in anticipation of a decisive victory to be won in the 1980s for our socialist modernization. Here, the key to achieving this is to uphold and improve Party leadership, which was the theme of the session. The plenum has further developed the ideological and organizational achievements made since the third plenary session. The resolutions adopted have far-reaching significance in strengthening and improving Party leadership and advancing the four modernizations.

A Correct Organizational Line

To uphold and improve Party leadership, there must be a correct political line and a correct ideological line, to be guaranteed by a correct organizational line that can implement the Party's line, principles and policies unswervingly over a long period of time. Taking the situation in the Party as a whole, the primary

issue in regard to its organizational line is to reshuffle and underpin the core of leadership in the Party Central Committee, which is the headquarters of our Party. The plenum has elected additional members to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee and re-established the Party Central Committee Secretariat. This is done to serve the needs of the heavy and complex work in modernization and is also a matter of major significance for ensuring long-term continuity of the Party's line, principles and policies and for ensuring long-term stability of the Party's core of leadership. The establishment of the Secretariat of the Central Committee is, therefore, a far-sighted strategic decision aimed at order and stability that will last. The newly elected members of the Political Bureau Standing Committee and of the Secretariat are all long-tested, highly competent comrades more or less in the prime of their lives, who are firm in carrying out the Party's line. This demonstrates that we have many talented successors to the Party's cause and the political line for the four modernizations is sure to be implemented unswervingly without interruption.

Seeking Truth From Facts

Upholding and improving Party leadership requires continuous efforts to emancipate the mind and carry forward the spirit of seeking truth from facts. The rehabilitation of Comrade Liu Shaoqi at the fifth plenum has gladdened the whole Party and the whole nation. The case of Comrade Liu Shaoqi was the biggest wrong ever done to a Party member in our Party history. The fifth plenum has adopted a historic resolution for the complete rehabilitation of Comrade Liu Shaoqi. Restoration of his good name as a great Marxist and proletarian revolutionary and of his reputation as one of the chief leaders of the Party and state shows that our Party is serious, open and aboveboard, and that it means to adhere thoroughly to the principle of seeking truth from facts. Seeking truth from facts is a basic principle of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. This and correcting mistakes once they are discovered are

principles put forward by Comrade Mao Zedong for dealing with people. Rehabilitation of Comrade Liu Shaoqi by seeking truth from facts is precisely an effort to fully and accurately adhere to the scientific system of Mao Zedong Thought and restore the Party's fine tradition nurtured by Comrade Mao Zedong. In so doing, our Party has greatly raised its prestige among the masses. Mao Zedong Thought is an invaluable spiritual treasure of our Party and the Chinese people. It plays and will continue to play an important role guiding our cause for a long time to come. Adherence to Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought is an unalterable principle throughout our four modernizations.

For a Sound Inner-Party Life

We must uphold and enhance Party leadership, and for this, it is necessary to improve inner-Party life and strengthen our Party's fighting qualities.

The fifth plenum has carried out a very important legislative task of the Party in discussing the draft of the revised Constitution of the Communist Party of China and approving the Guiding Principles for Inner-Party Political Life. These two documents were drawn up in accordance with the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong on Party-building, and incorporate the earnest summing up of the historical experience of our Party, especially the bitter lessons of the Cultural Revolution. Our Party was badly damaged by Lin Biao and the gang of four, so that its fighting capability was greatly weakened. Although it has revived to some extent, it is still inadequate for the needs of the four modernizations. There is, indeed, the problem of rectification. The two documents should serve well as our weapons for this purpose.

In the course of carrying out the 12 guiding principles and discussing the draft of the revised Party Constitution, the whole Party should undergo a universal, profound ideological and political education. It is expected that in the process of education and rectification every comrade will come to understand how he can be considered a really qualified Party member and thus to enhance the masses of Party members' consciousness in adhering to the Party's political and ideological lines, strengthen the Party's solidarity and unity, strengthen the Party's democratic centralism, heighten its members' sense of discipline and organization,

and greatly augment the Party's fighting capability.

The fifth plenum was a meeting of unity enjoying wide popular support. It decided to convene the 12th National Congress of the Party before the date due for a timely solution of a number of weighty problems, connected with Party-building and the four modernizations. This decision reflects the aspirations of the whole Party and the whole nation. The plenum has elected additional members to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau, established the Secretariat of the Central Committee and elected Members to the Secretariat and, at the same time, removed or proposed to remove four comrades who have made serious mistakes from their leading Party and state posts. All these measures will further help develop the political situation of stability and unity. The rehabilitation of Comrade Liu Shaoqi is an encouragement and inspiration to every member of our Party who upholds the truth to become a materialist through and through. We are in a position to tell this to the whole Party, the whole nation and the world with a sense of pride: The core of leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and its Central Committee is now stronger than ever, more united than ever. The political situation in China has attained greater stability.

The series of resolutions adopted at the fifth plenum provide additional proof that the Communist Party of China is a great, glorious and correct Party. Ours is a Party with the courage and determination to adhere to truth and correct mistakes, a Party good at summing up historical experience and learning lessons from faults and setbacks, a Party which is forward-looking and fearlessly breaks away from its old encumbrances, a Party with both prowess and insight, capable of bringing up, as circumstances change, new problems and solving them in good time. Our Party has been advancing with firm and steady strides from the 11th Party Congress through to the third, fourth, and fifth plenums of the 11th Central Committee. We sense our great historical mission and are aware of the many difficulties and problems ahead. We will certainly do our very best in Party-building, keep improving the Party's fighting qualities and bring the art of Party leadership to a still higher level.

(Excerpts from a "Renmin Ribao" editorial, March 3. Subheads are ours.)

A Glimpse of Factory Life

by Our Correspondent

Xiang Rong

China has 348,000 industrial enterprises, of which 84,000 are state-run and owned by the whole people, with 74.51 million workers and staff members. The other 264,000 enterprises are collectively owned by the working people and have 20.48 million workers and staff members. The latter are mainly medium and small-sized enterprises.

How are the factory workers and cadres working and living? This is the question raised by many readers in their letters asking for coverage in our special feature. But it is difficult to give an overall answer because the workers and cadres are working in different fields and in different areas. The following series of reports on a state-owned bicycle factory in Shanghai may give our readers some idea of the general picture.

Manufacturer of "Yongjiu" Bicycles

ACCORDING to the latest statistics, there is a bike for every 12 Chinese, but the demand is still rising. China concentrates on developing public transport. At present, there are no privately owned motorcars, and bicycles have become the main personally used means of

transportation in the cities and the rural areas on the plains.

"The bicycle is the key product of our bureau and it has a good sale," said Xiao Li working in the Light Industrial Bureau in Shanghai while pointing to the bicycles shuttl-

ing along the streets.

In this biggest industrial city of Shanghai, he said, there are the bicycle factory producing *Yongjiu* (for ever) bikes, the No. 3 Bicycle Plant producing *Fenghuang* (phoenix) bikes, the No. 4 Bicycle Plant turning out mini-bikes and seven factories manufacturing spare parts. Since there are many trades, the municipal light industrial bureau has set up a number of specialized companies to manage them and the bicycle company is one of them. This company fixes the state-planned targets* for these bicycle plants and sees to it that they fulfil the production tasks.

High Reputation

This correspondent visited the Shanghai Bicycle Plant, located in the Yangpu District, ten kilometres north of the city centre.

The plant has 4,200 workers and staff members including 1,200 women. It has 500 Party members and 500 Youth League members; about one-fourth of the staff are workers under 25. It has an eight-hour, three-shift workday system and an eight-grade wage system: the monthly wage for the eighth (or the highest) grade is 120 yuan and the lowest 42 yuan (both not including the non-staple food subsidy). According to the socialist principle of "to each

* These include the variety, output and quality of products, labour productivity, production costs, material consumption, turnover rate of circulating capital and the profit to be handed over to the state.



Riding "Yongjiu" brand bicycles.



Left: A bicycle produced before liberation. Right: Bicycles produced after liberation.

according to his work" and more pay for more work, the workers, apart from their monthly wages, can also get bonuses, generally about five yuan a month.

The plant produces ordinary bicycles, load-carrying bicycles for peasants, light bicycles, multi-gear racing bicycles, dual-purpose (motor-driven and pedalled) bicycles, of 17 specifications. Its products sell well throughout the country and a small number of them are sold on foreign markets. The plant enjoys a high reputation in the bicycle trade for its high output, low production costs, numerous varieties, and good quality.

Structure and System

The factory has a system of responsibility and division of labour between factory director and deputy directors under the leadership of the Party committee. After decisions are made by the Party committee, the director and deputy directors of the factory are responsible for organizing the workers and staff to carry them out. The organizational structure of the factory is as follows:

—The Party committee. It consists of a secretary, two deputy secretaries and eight committee members. Under the political department (an administrative body of the factory

Party committee), there are the organizational and propaganda sections and a militia section in charge of the organization and training of worker militia; the political department also supervises the work of the trade union, the Youth League committee and the factory-run school.

—The factory directors. The director is the responsible administrative member of the factory and deputy directors are assistants to the director. The factory has one director and four deputy directors. Under the leadership of the factory director, there is one office and ten sections in charge of production, planning, technology, safety, quality examination, wages and other work.

—The workers' congress. The factory calls the workers' congress sessions at regular intervals. The representatives, elected by the workers, are responsible for reporting the workers' opinions and demands to the leadership. They take part in the democratic discussions on major issues of the factory, put forward criticisms and proposals for improving the work, and supervise the leading cadres.

The factory has eight workshops which work under the

unified leadership of the director. In a workshop, there are sections, shifts and groups.

Make More Contributions

A leading member of the factory told this correspondent that the factory grew out of the Changhe Workshop financed by a Japanese merchant in 1940. At that time, it had only 200 workers and staff members and it produced 26-inch *Iron Anchor* bicycles. In 1945-49 during the Kuomintang rule, it produced *Wrench* bicycles with an output of 3,000 in 1948. Their quality was very poor.

Between 1950 and 1977, thanks to the hard work and technical innovations of the workers, the factory's output increased by 23.3 per cent annually and it produced 1.8 million bicycles in 1979 (see table on bicycle output). Now the daily output is greater than that produced in two years before liberation. The accumulated profits it has offered to the state in the past 30 years amount to 1,000 million yuan, equivalent to 26.5 times the total state investment in it.

Although it has made rather big contributions, the factory to this day still retains the fine tradition of hard struggle. Except for the four-storied build-

BICYCLE OUTPUT

1949	1952	1958	1966	1976	1977	1978	1979
4,373	28,767	315,382	541,515	1,300,546	1,458,492	1,700,176	1,800,000

ing put up in 1975, most of the buildings for production and subsidiary use are one-storied houses. Realizing their responsibility for national economic construction, the majority of workers and cadres do not claim credit for themselves and become arrogant. They

used the majority of the investment for expanded production and automated 50 per cent of the production processes such as electroplating, painting and heat treatment, thereby ensuring high-speed development of production.

conditions for 150 workers' households.

"How do you work every day?" I asked. He said a factory director's duty is to ensure the fulfilment of the production task of the factory in respect to output, quality, output value and profits. Besides reading and signing documents, he also calls meetings to study problems concerning production and the workers' life. He always takes part in such meetings as: factory Party committee meetings (because he is also a deputy secretary of the Party committee), meetings of factory directors (there are the director and four deputy directors), and meetings on factory affairs attended by leading personnel of workshops and section offices to discuss the arrangement of production tasks.

But a large part of his time is spent on making investigations at the grass-roots level, at various workshops, listening to the opinions of the cadres and workers there, spotting problems and helping to solve them. As to those major problems, he will bring them up to the Party

Factory Director

FACTORY director Li Linfu told me: "I get up at 5:00 a.m. every morning. The first thing I do is to buy food with a bamboo basket. Then I come back and together with my wife cook the food." "We have to prepare these," he added, "for the lunch of the two children who are at school and for the supper of the whole family because my wife, a worker in a textile mill, also has to go to work."

Working Hard

As the clock strikes six, he begins listening to the weather forecast every day. After that, he just has a simple breakfast and then goes to work by trolley bus. After he arrives at the factory at seven, he cleans the office, studies English for some time and begins the day's intense work. He has lunch at the workers' canteen.

The workers knock off at 4 p.m., but he usually leaves after six. Upon returning home, he has supper and habitually drinks half a catty of Shaoxing wine with a low degree of alcohol. He said humorously: "That'll relieve me of my fatigue after a day's work."

This factory director grew up in a small county town in Zhejiang Province near Shanghai and at 13 he became an apprentice in a small grocery. Through study in a spare-time night school after liberation, he

finished senior middle school courses. A man of 47 years old, medium height and sporting a crew cut, he gives people the impression that he dresses simply and is affable and capable. He receives a monthly wage of 96 yuan, a little less than an eighth-grade (top) veteran worker's. His wife earns 60 yuan a month. Lao Li is a Communist who is always the first to bear hardships and the last to enjoy comforts. His four-member family are crowded in one room and an attic.

But on the other hand, he shows much concern for the well-being of the workers. Last year he took out a large portion of the profits placed at the disposal of the factory (according to the new stipulation that factories are given a larger power of decision, a factory can set aside as its enterprise funds 5 per cent of the profits which are to be handed over to the state). With this money he went from place to place trying to get materials for building workers' housing. Construction of houses has been started and it is expected that, when completed, they can provide better living



Li Linfu (right) checking on quality with the workers.

Party Committee Secretary



Ke Liren (second from right) working in the kitchen.

WHERE was the Party committee secretary? I was told he was working on the night shift in the canteen. In China, the factory leadership often works alongside the rank-and-file so as to maintain close ties with the masses and keep from becoming bureaucratic.

Once Ke Liren, the Party committee secretary, went to the canteen during the night shift. He found the rice was undercooked, and there was only one dish left, cabbages. Workers and cooks were quarrelling. He decided to work in the canteen for some time, studying with the cooks how to improve the service. Pretty soon, the cooks gave better service and there were more varieties of dishes.

Ke is a tall, good-natured man of 53. His monthly income is 97 yuan. In the old society, he was an office-boy in a bank. After liberation he served in the army for 15 years.

He told me leaders should be concerned about the daily life of the masses and get to know what is on their minds, and they should have close contacts with the rank-and-file.

When asked about the duties and functions of the factory Party committee, he said the factory Party committee should see to it that the Party's policies are implemented and the state plans fulfilled. The situation now was different from what it was before. Previously, there was no division of work between the Party committee and the factory management, and all the administrative work was done by the Party committee. Now the system of responsibility and division of work between factory director and deputy directors under the leadership of the Party committee is in effect.

After a decision on the major issues about production and administration is taken through discussion by the Party committee, the director or deputy directors are responsible for putting it into effect. The Party committee must free itself from daily routine work to study the major issues, organize and mobilize the Party members and non-Party members to increase production and to work harder for modernization.

committee meetings or meetings on factory affairs for solutions through collective discussions.

In the past, he said, there had long existed a troublesome

phenomenon: production did not develop evenly, being slack early in each month and intense at the end of the month. Late in each month, there was

usually a general mobilization meeting for workers and cadres to do a crash job round the clock. Everybody was critical of this. But at that time the ultra-Left trend of thought ran amuck and rational rules and regulations were being criticized as "revisionist trash" that suppressed the workers. This made it impossible for the factory leadership to manage the enterprise fruitfully. In the beginning of 1977, Director Li made up his mind to solve this knotty problem.

Progress

In our socialist enterprises, he said, it is impossible for a few leading members to solve these major issues simply by giving administrative orders or by the use of coercion and punishment. Following the Party's mass line, he organized the workers and cadres to discuss this anomaly, analyse its causes and find out a solution. For instance, they worked out a strict working plan, urged the workers in different working procedures to fulfil the tasks on schedule and established definite rules and regulations, which everybody must observe.

Improving the quality of products has been a major task for China's industrial enterprises in recent years. Director Li gave an example. He said that for a while the consumers had a low opinion of the No. 17 type bicycles the factory produced, and yet the factory leadership did not know what the defects were. So Director Li organized the engineers, quality-testing section chiefs, leading personnel of the workshops and workers' representatives to go to a few major stores in the city where they listened to the opinions of the shop assistants and the con-

sumers. Some said the price of this type of bicycle was too high and its quality was poor. For example, they said, the painting was carelessly done, the processing of some spare parts was not up to the required precision and the screws were not on tight. One of the consumers who did not know Comrade Li was the factory director sharply criticized the bikes and said, "Don't you want your products to sell? Don't you hold yourselves responsible to the people? Ask your factory director to come and listen to our opinions." On hearing this, Director Li's cheeks burned with shame.

After returning to the factory, he discussed the matter with other leading members and worked out 58 measures for improving the quality of their products. Consumers now think highly of the No. 17 type bicycle. The factory leadership has made it a rule to go out and call on the consumers at regular intervals.

Worried

Director Li said he was faced with many problems. The market demands more bicycles but there is an acute shortage of factory buildings. And I find that is true. When I was visiting the factory, I discovered that except for the paths, almost every available space was piled up with spare parts, tires and frames of bicycles.

He also said that the higher authorities required them to speed up the production pace but electricity and some of the raw materials were in short supply. "As a Chinese saying goes: 'The cleverest housewife can't cook a meal without rice,' so how can I not feel worried?"

Li added, "There are many other difficulties for a factory

director. I, too, often put forward my opinions and suggestions to the higher leadership. But the fundamental way is to try to solve the difficulties ourselves. We must endeavour to fulfil the production tasks and strive to overfulfil them no matter how difficult it may be."

At the same time he places

great hope on the policies already defined by the Party: the system of economic management should be reformed, enterprises be given greater power of decision and priority be given to light industry (including the manufacture of bicycles) in supplying power, raw and other materials.

Veteran Worker

At present, there are a dozen or so docks by the Huangpu riverside in Shanghai with ferries sailing to and fro, and bicycles and cars can board the motor-driven ferry which gets them across the river. But before liberation, we relied mainly on sampans. This would take us much time and our lives could not be guaranteed if there was a windstorm," a veteran worker nicknamed "Xiaogou," who was sitting on the bow of a newly painted ferry, told me feelingly.

"Xiaogou"

The name "Xiaogou" (little dog) is an indication of his poor family background. In the old

society, the mortality rate of babies was very high, so the working people usually gave their children names like "Xiaogou" in the hope that they could grow up even under inhuman living conditions.

I ferried across the river with Lao Cao to Pudong (now a district in Shanghai) to visit his home. He is 50 years old. At 14 he worked as a child labourer (this was very common before liberation) in the Changhe Workshop, which was the predecessor of this factory. The products it turned out were the cumbersome *Iron Anchor* bicycles. After liberation, he was once cited as an advanced worker for improving the free



Cao "Xiaogou" (centre) and his family.

wheel of the bicycle and he toured abroad free of charge.

Shortly after coming ashore, we got to his house. It would take him over half an hour (including the time taken by ferry) to go from here to the factory by bike. It is much quieter here than in the busy downtown district. He lives in an ordinary four-room, two-storied brick house with a floor space of 54 square metres. There are three rooms on the ground floor: one sitting room (also for dining); one for his daughter who is a nurse in a nearby hospital and a kitchen near the back door. He and his wife and their two sons (one a primary school pupil and the other a middle school student) live upstairs. The room is furnished simply but articles of daily use are basically complete. For instance, there are sofas, cane chairs and a radio in the sitting room and there are a 12-inch black-and-white TV set and a sewing machine upstairs. The two bicycles are for him and his daughter to ride to work.

Because economic development had been held up by social turmoil and the policy for construction had not provided for enough attention to improving the people's livelihood, urban housing is rather crowded in our country. The living conditions of Lao Cao and his family are considered not bad.

When our hostess, Liang Gendi, learnt that I had come to visit her home, she hurried back from a nearby factory. She is the trade union chairman of a paper mill with a staff of 1,300. She is more talkative than Lao Cao. She talked about everyday matters while pouring a cup of tea for me.

She experienced almost the same fate as Lao Cao, for both

worked as child labourers in a factory at 14. Cao's father was a worker in a cigarette factory. Being badly off there, he went to work in another place during the Spring Festival in 1943 when the War of Resis-

tance Against Japan was going on. One day, when he was going to the factory, the ferry boat he boarded was hit and sunk. The father was drowned. Driven by poverty, Cao "Xiaogou" started working while he

Trade Union Chairman



Zhang Guohui paying a visit to a sick worker.

ZHANG Guohui, 48, chairman of the trade union, became an apprentice in a Shanghai factory when he was 13 and remained one for five years till China's liberation.

Zhang said that like other factories in Shanghai, trade union work in the bicycle factory was altogether stopped during the Cultural Revolution. A new trade union was set up in April 1978. The chairman and vice-chairman and the 11 trade union committee members were democratically elected by the workers. The committee members are in charge of labour emulation drives, propaganda, workers' welfare and take care of women workers' special needs.

Speaking about the tasks of the trade union, he remarked that the working class has become the leading class after liberation. The tasks of the trade union are to enhance the political consciousness of the workers and staff, organize socialist labour emulation drives, develop the socialist economy, consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat and step by step improve the workers' livelihood on the basis of expanded production.

The specific work of the bicycle factory trade union includes:

— Making workers' congress sessions a success. Last year two sessions were held, at which major issues were discussed, such as the production plans, utilization of funds, management and welfare. The representatives also criticized the factory leadership for its shortcomings and put forth suggestions.

— Organizing labour emulation drives, such as the "100-day contest" between individuals (i.e. completing 100 days' work without defects), "quality contests" among the shifts or groups, and "accident-free contests" among the workshops.

— Urging and assisting the factory leadership to build more workers' living quarters, improve service at the canteen, ensure labour protection and run the creche and nursery in a better way. The trade union also pays visits to retired workers and organizes ball games, chess contests and film shows on weekends.

was still a boy. He would get up very early in the morning, take a sampan and then walk for an hour or so to the Changhe Workshop.

"I worked without any overalls to wear, making front and rear axles and drilling holes. I went to the workshop early in the morning and came back home in the evening. When night fell, I was blackened all over too." Cao did not talk much.

In order to get the job in the paper mill in Pudong, his wife had had to lie that she was 19 though she was actually 14. She said: "Everyday I squatted picking up rags under a reed shed and on rainy days I worked under an umbrella."

Satisfaction

The couple got married in 1954 after liberation. The factory put up a house for them

in which they are now living. They are required to pay for it in instalments.

The hostess talked on and on about their income which totalled 175 yuan (not including their daughter's); their spending on water and electricity, coal and the housing tax to the state was less than ten yuan. With the remaining money, they often buy meat, eggs, chickens, rice, clothing and other articles of daily use. They have some savings every month.

Like most of the veteran workers who had experienced untold sufferings in the old society, Lao Cao and his wife are quite satisfied with their present life. They are all for maintaining a political situation of stability and unity in which people can work with one heart for the four modernizations so that all people will be better off.

Engineer

It was a day off for the whole factory, but Dong Zicheng, an engineer, left his home at 5 a.m.

He had an appointment with three workers to check the electroplating machine. In the last few days, bubbles were found in the electroplating fluid, which affected the quality. After careful investigation, Dong doubted whether this was due to a tiny amount of lubricant in the container. To locate the source of the lubricant, they had to dismantle the machine and get into the pipes. By the time they came out of the pipes at noon, they were dripping with sweat and dirt.

Twenty-Two Years

"Doing extra work on holidays and at midnights is quite common for me," Dong, in black-rimmed spectacles, told me. He

was promoted from technician to engineer in 1979. He was getting bald although he was only 48. Maybe it was due to overwork.

He studied chemistry in college and started to work in the bicycle factory in 1957. Designing and improving the automatic electroplating machines has been his main job for the past 22 years. He designed the first automatic machine in 1958, and this was his 12th.

It was a 48.6 metre-long electroplating machine, which incorporated 20 procedures. When the rims and other metal parts were

put into the machine, they would be cleansed of dirt and rust and then put through five different plating processes. Dong beamed with pride: "This is the largest ever made in China."

Dong is now heading a 14-member technical team. They are studying how to improve the technique of plating, painting, welding, heat-treatment and three other technical processes. Dong said: "I spend most of my time in the workshops and observe and analyse problems with workers and technicians. An engineer has to get in touch with practice."

Ever Busy

"How do you spend the rest of your time?" I asked him.

Dong said: "Well, attending meetings, giving technical lessons to workers, joining academic activities arranged by the city and the local district, or exchanging experiences." He was metal-plating section chief of the city anti-corrosion society and chief of the district electroplating section. At night, when his wife and two school-age daughters are asleep, he writes or translates some articles about electroplating. He said: "Some



Dong Zicheng making chemical analysis of the electroplating fluid.

scientific and technical journals asked me to write these."

On weekends, he has to do housework, such as cleaning and buying coal. His four-member family live in a 20-metre room. His wife is a teacher in the institute of chemical engineering. Their combined monthly income is 159 yuan.

"Well, you have a busy schedule," I said. He replied, smiling, "To work for the four modernizations, we need technique. Our electroplating technique is backward compared with other countries. How can we catch up if we work slackly? In the past, like other intellectuals, we technicians were branded as the ninth category of class enemies. Even if you wanted to do something, there were obstructions and we were unhappy. Now the Party Central Committee has declared that we intellectuals are

a component part of the proletariat. This makes it easy for us to have a closer comradely relationship with the workers. I don't mind if I'm tired."

In China, the engineers and technicians of Dong's generation are the backbone force. In the past few years, the Party has adopted a correct policy towards the intellectuals, so as to activate their enthusiasm and creativeness.

Dong did not complain about his living conditions. Like other technicians, he gets rather low pay and lives in a crowded room with his family. But it is encouraging that the government and public opinion are paying attention to these problems. With the development of the economy, their situation will improve and they will work still harder for the four modernizations.

Young Woman Worker

YAO Peihua stepped into the office light-footedly. She is a pretty girl. A curl slipped from her work cap on to her forehead.

A Challenge to Anarchism

She is 22. She began to work in this factory in May 1976, after her graduation from a Shanghai

middle school in 1975. She and three other girls were assigned to work in a group of 30 welding the rear frames.

In the beginning, she found the work rather tiring. She had to grasp an electrode holder while bending and turning all the time. Occasionally, drops of boric acid hurt her hands.

The group they came to had been under the influence of anarchism. There was no strict discipline. Work began at seven, but the group wouldn't start to get busy until eight and they knocked off at half past three. The average output per worker was 640 frames per shift (eight hours), which was far lower than the norm set by the factory.

When the four girls came to the group, the workshop head and group leader encouraged them to play an exemplary role.

In September, the girls proposed that the norm be fulfilled and overfulfilled. This was like throwing a stone in the pond. Some "kindhearted" person remarked: "You've been here for only a short time, and yet you want to raise the norm. Do you know what consequences will there be if you go on trying this for long?" Others made sarcastic remarks saying that the four girls wanted to show off. When Yao Peihua was first asked to tell about the proposal at the workshop meeting, she was so upset that she wept. In the end, she went to the platform anyway.

An Urge to Study

What happened afterwards? I asked her. She replied: After the fall of the gang of four in 1976, normal order was restored and production went up step by step. One year later, each worker welded 800 frames on the average per shift. The output was up, but not the quality.

At a quality testing exhibition held by the Ministry of Light Industry in Beijing in August 1978, a rear frame of a bicycle turned out by their factory was disjointed and the director was criticized on the spot. Later it was found that the tubes were welded by Yao's group. This was quite a shock to the workers and they decided to pay attention to quality. They invited technicians to lecture and veteran workers to teach. A technical drive was started.

Yao Peihua told me. "I've been working as a welder for several years, but previously I was not clear about the fundamental principle of welding and operation rules. I have to learn."

She said that when the group tried to improve quality, output dropped from 800 to 500 frames per day per person. Even then,



Yao Peihua at work.

there were still rejected products, and this was the case with Yao. For this, she was somewhat discouraged. But later she was determined to study harder and to get more practical experience.

After much hard work, daily output per worker was 800 up-to-standard pieces. The group was commended as an advanced one and Yao was chosen as one of the factory's three "March 8th" red banner pace-setters.

Happy Life

When asked about her daily life, Yao replied that her monthly income was 43 yuan. Both her parents were working outside Shanghai. She stayed with her grandmother and aunt and both took good care of her. Her aunt helped her to make clothes. When she was free, she helped them with laundry and other housework.

If she was on the day shift, she left home at 5:45 and got

Workshop Head

DEPUTY director Yin Huifang of the metal-working workshop was a child labourer in the old society. He is a competent cadre of 47.



Yin Huifang (right) chatting with a young worker.

It is not an easy job to head a workshop with 560 workers. He has to handle production plans, technique and personnel affairs. In China workers cannot be punished or fired at will. There are numerous difficulties, so how does he cope with them?

Yin said: "I have three ways: First, I try to set myself up as a good example. I take part in physical work where it is most arduous.

Secondly, I set strict demands on others regardless of their seniority or positions. Thirdly, I try to be concerned about the workers' life."

He spoke of several trouble-making young workers in his workshop who were unwilling to abide by the regulations. They called him a "foreman in the old society" who oppressed the workers. There was a notorious worker who always contradicted the leadership.

Instead of cold-shouldering him, Yin approached him patiently and called on him at his home on many occasions. The leadership's sincerity moved the boy, who gradually changed. Now he is a group leader in the metal-working workshop.

to the factory at 6:30. She did some preparatory work before the shift started at 7:00 and was off the job at 15:30.

I asked her what she did after work. She said: "I don't go home right after work. Sometimes I repair the tubes that were not welded properly, because they can be used after repairing. Sometimes I lend a hand to other groups. Usually it's already dark when I get home."

She is also an activist in the workshop's Youth League

branch. She likes dancing and reciting poems. Twice a week she attends mathematics class in the factory's spare-time school. She makes acquaintances with young male workers, but she has no boy friend yet. She said this is because the state advocates late marriage.

A young man in the factory's Youth League committee told me there are quite a number of advanced young workers like Yao Peihua in the factory, but there are also less advanced ones.

He said, "To these workers we have to do painstaking ideological and educational work. We believe most of them will change when more and more people are working harder for the four modernizations."



Yao Peihua and her workmates on an excursion.

● A Veteran Cadre's Legacy

Veteran cadre Ma Chungu, former vice-chairman of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, died of illness last spring. During his hospitalization, his three children went to look after him, but he continued to decline. He never allowed his situation to interfere with their work. The night he passed away, there were no relatives present. There was no one to take note of the last words of the deceased, but he left his children a precious legacy.

Comrade Ma, who joined the Communist Party in 1927, did not leave his children a great sum of money though he received higher wages than ordinary cadres and had saved a large portion of his wages during the six years when he worked abroad. Returning from abroad, he volunteered to contribute most of his savings to the Party organization. Beginning from the 70s, he paid Party membership dues of 100 yuan a month.

He had often said before his death that the sons and daughters of revolutionary cadres should carry forward the revolutionary cause. "What we should leave to next generation is not private property, but revolutionary thinking and fine traditions. Even a large amount of money could not support the children for their whole lifetime. If our children lead a comfortable life relying on an inheritance from their parents, it will do them nothing but harm," he observed.

Comrade Ma was strict with himself, seeking no personal privileges. At the same time, he did not allow his children to feel "honoured because of their

father," or to consider themselves "a head taller than others."

In 1976 when Tangshan earthquake affected Beijing, Ma lived in a shelter just as the ordinary people did. One night, the rain came pouring down. His driver and children tried to persuade him to go inside the car, to keep dry. "I'm a cadre," he said. "If I were to sit in the car, where would other people go?" He advised his children not to stay in the car, saying, "We should share the hardships and comforts of the masses."

Ma's house is quite small, so that comrades in the office often advised him to move into a larger one, but he declined. He never allowed his relatives to use the car assigned to him for his work. Once when his wife

returned from cadre school with some heavy luggages, his son phoned him to ask if he could send a car to the railway station to meet her. He refused.

His three children are all imbued with the good qualities he has cultivated in them through his own example. They are polite, seek no personal privileges and observe discipline.

The eldest is a demobilized P.L.A. man who now works as an electrician. The second serves as a fitter, and is often cited as an advanced worker in his factory. The youngest worked for years in the casting shop of his plant; he learnt Japanese through self-study in his spare time, and has recently been assigned to translate technical materials in his plant.

People in the News



Cao Jinying (right).

Cao Jinying is nearly 50 and has been known for her superb skill with the embroidery needle ever since she was a girl. She lives in Jinshan County, Shanghai, and her embroideries on pillowslips, bed curtains and aprons are very much admired for their rich pastoral colouring and freshness of design. Now she has won recognition as a painter.

Cao Jinying first picked up a brush in 1977 when Cao Xiwen, a young woman peasant painter working in the county cultural centre, called on her at home and persuaded her to try her hand in this medium. The flowers and birds Cao Jinying did were appealingly alive. They were every bit as good as her visitor's. The two women became good friends and with help from Wu Tongzhang, an art teacher from the county cultural centre, they steadily developed their techniques.

A representative work of Cao Jinying's is her *Fish-Pond*, in blue and white, showing a shoal of fish about a small boat in rippling water. The design is evocative of a piece of blue-and-white cloth print. Cao Jinying's paintings have hung in exhibitions of peasant paintings and have been highly appraised by visitors.

● **How Divorces Are Handled**

There were 8,263 weddings and 174 divorces last year in Chongwen, one of Beijing's six urban districts, which has a population of 400,000.

The reasons for granting the divorces were: loss of affection, maltreatment, adultery, political and financial considerations. There were some cases resulting from quarrels over children of former spouses and hasty marriages when both partners knew very little about each other.

Legal, moral questions and many practical problems are involved in divorces. Such cases are handled with great care by the courts, especially when children come into the question. The courts always patiently try to help both husband and wife to see whether it is better not to seek a divorce.

For example, when 40-year-old Zhu Yongzhao savagely beat up his wife, whom he suspected of being unfaithful, his wife applied for a divorce. Through investigations, the district people's court held that the husband's suspicions were groundless. He was criticized for beating his wife and given a warning. Zhu admitted his error, but his wife still wanted a divorce. After a lot of work, the court, together with her relatives and friends, managed to dissuade her and reconcile the pair.

In handling a divorce case, every effort is made to bring about a reconciliation if one party objects to a divorce. Of the 251 divorce suits heard by the district people's court last year, 120 couples were reconciled through mediation. There were also some couples who settled their divorces without going through legal proceeding.

Neighbourhood committees also play an important role in mediation. A large number of family disputes are settled with their help and never reaches the court. There is a civil mediation group set up in each of the 140 neighbourhood committees in Chongwen district.

● **Shanghai Foreign Students Host a Party**

Foreign students at the Shanghai Textile Engineering Institute recently gave a graduation and farewell party for their Chinese teachers and classmates.

It was sponsored by the Congolese, Somali and Mali students of the graduating class. Foreign students of the Shanghai No. 1 and No. 2 Medical Colleges and German, French and British teachers of the Shanghai Foreign Languages School were also invited.

In July 1979, there were clashes at the institute between Chinese and foreign students. During the incident 19 foreign students and 24 Chinese students, staff members and

policemen were injured. (See *Beijing Review*, No. 31, 1979.)

After that the Chinese departments and the foreign embassies concerned took appropriate measures to resolve the issue. Later, relations between the Chinese and foreign students steadily improved.

On China's National Day (October 1) last year, the Chinese students of the institute gave a party for their foreign classmates. Later, the student union of the institute organized a sight-seeing trip to Suzhou for both Chinese and foreign students. Everyone had a good time, especially the foreign students.

The recent graduation party was presided over by Nkoundji Bela Pierre, a Congolese student. Addressing the party, he said: "We will graduate shortly and return to our own countries where we will use the knowledge we have gained to build our own homeland. At today's party we would like to express our gratitude to our teachers and Chinese fellow-students and to add a brick to the edifice of friendship among us students."



Chinese and foreign students at Beijing University get together to celebrate Spring Festival.

MUSIC

Popular Songs

TOASTING Song composed by Shi Guangnan won the first place in a recently held national song poll. Another 14 songs were chosen as the next best.

The competition, sponsored jointly by the literary and art department of the Central People's Broadcasting Station and the editorial department of the magazine *Songs*, had wide repercussions among radio listeners. All songs broadcast by the station since October 1976 were entered into the competition. The committee in charge received 220,000 letters from one million listeners, 70 per cent from young people, mostly those living in the cities.

The top 15 "winners" are lyrical songs for solo and ensemble written in the last few years, with almost half of them chosen from film sound-tracks and TV films. With varied themes, these songs express the

people's joy over success in their struggle and work, eulogize their love for the motherland and life in the socialist society and praise the sincere love of young people. These songs express deep feelings in catching tunes and smooth melodies.

Most of the composers are young or middle-aged. They have worked hard to compose many pieces of music expressing the real sentiments of the people and the new spirit of the times.

Shi Guangnan is well versed in composing lyrical music, but none of his works were allowed to be broadcast when the gang of four was in power. When the latter was toppled he was overjoyed and composed *Toasting Song* to express his happiness and the jubilation of people throughout the country.

Wang Ming, 46-year-old composer, pays attention to studying the characteristics of folk music. His works are not only melodious but full of national flavour. He often goes to collect

opinions among the workers. Four of the 15 top songs were composed by him: *Sister in Tears Looks for Brother*, *Spring Water in the Border Area*, *Oh! The Youth!* and *Velvet Flowers*.

The people are tremendously fond of the lyrics because music which expressed true feelings was banned by the gang of four during the Cultural Revolution and composers were surrounded by all sorts of restrictions. Only songs which were poor in content, dull and full of slogans were broadcast and listeners could only "enjoy" the eight "model theatrical works."

This competition reflected the varied needs of the audience. The Chinese people who are striving for the realization of the four modernizations need not only militant songs to inspire them but also lyrical music to enrich their inner spiritual world as well as light pieces to enjoy in their spare time.

DEMOGRAPHY

Population Trend
And Policy

Chinese scientists recently announced that the best way to bring China's natural population growth rate to zero and keep the population under 1,100 million by the end of this century is to persist in the government declared policy of "one child per couple."

Applying cybernetics and systems engineering to their study, four natural and social scientists in Beijing—Song Jian, Tian Xueyuan, Li Guangyuan and Yu Jingyuan—reported that the average life span



Soprano Su Fengjuan singing "Toasting Song" composed by Shi Guangnan (fourth from the left).

now in China is 68. In 1978, the population under 15 made up 38.6 per cent of the total and those under 29 made up 63.4 per cent. This shows that China's population is still increasing and effective measures must be taken to halt the trend.

According to their calculations, the population, even with the present policy of "one child only for each couple," will continue to grow for another 25 years until 2004, when it will reach 1,054 million. And it will begin to taper off the following year. By 2080, a hundred years from now, it will be down to 370 million.

If the 1975 growth rate of three children per woman is allowed to continue, they warned, China's population would approach the 1979 world total by 2080.

On the question of an aging population or possible shortage of manpower in the future, the scientists said, "Not to worry." They pointed out that China's present workforce of 520 million could go up to 760 million by the end of this century and 680 million in 2020.

SPORTS

Round-the-City Races

A 26-year-old Japanese technician and a 13-year-old Chinese school girl won the men's and women's titles in the traditional Spring Festival round-the-city race in Beijing.

Kenji Sato of the Japanese International Business Machine Corporation, who was invited to take part, captured the men's 13,000-metre race in 42 minutes 15.3 seconds.



Start of women's round-the-city race in Beijing's Tian An Men Square.

Petite Yang Xiufeng, a student of the Chaoyang Middle School, was the youngest runner in the race. She set a new record with 18 minutes 58.3 seconds in the women's 5,000-metre race. The previous best was 19 min. 6.4 sec. She started training with her elder brother at the age of five. This is the first time she participated in this kind of race.

A field of 3,000 runners began a massed start from Tian An Men Square in the heart of Beijing. The course was slippery after a snowfall, but the event still attracted a record number of onlookers. The spectators jammed the pavements along the route long before the race started, and gave the runners applause. As the finishers crossed the line at Tian An Men Square, the crowds surged forward to shake hands and congratulate them amid cheers.

The annual round-the-city race climaxed the winter long-distance running season in the Chinese capital. The partic-

ipants are limited to men under 50 and women under 40. Because of the growing number of amateur long-distance runners, this year's race was preceded by a jogging race for middle-aged and elderly people. Among the 108 joggers who participated, the eldest was an 83-year-old retired worker.

A 14-member Japanese team took part in this year's men's and women's events while a Chinese team participated in the Ohme-Hochi race in Tokyo.

During the Spring Festival, various kinds of long-distance running contests were also held in Shanghai, Tianjin, Harbin, Fuzhou and Urumqi. Tens of thousands of amateur runners took part in these activities. This demonstrates that long-distance running has become a favourite sport among the masses.

CORRECTION: In our last issue, line 11 from the bottom of the left-hand column on page 17 should read "Hebei Bureau of the Central Committee."

Poetry as a Weapon

The Tiananmen Poems

Edited and translated by Xiao Lan;

Foreign Languages Press,
Beijing, 1979;

64 pages, 10.8 x 17.5 cm.

On the memorable date of 5th April, 1976, dramatic events took place in the centre of Beijing which were to surprise the whole world and change the course of Chinese history. The city's populace, after a ten-year period of cultural starvation and political stringency, was finally provoked; people streamed into the square to pay tribute to their much loved and revered Premier Zhou Enlai, despite orders from the gang of four not to hold commemorative meetings for him. In a spontaneous outpouring of sentiment, thousands of people had written poems in memory of the Premier and pasted them on the balustrades of the Monument to the People's Heroes in the centre of Tiananmen Square. Although such poems were soon washed off the walls by the militia, countless people had already furtively copied them down. Over a thousand of these were collected and later published in several selections by a group of teachers from the Second Foreign Languages Institute in Beijing.

The Tiananmen Poems — translated by Xiao Lan and recently published by the Foreign Languages Press — is an impressive collection of thirty of these pieces. The English version succeeds in conveying the original poignancy of the poems, reflecting the translator's intention to bring out the actual sense and emo-

tion of the verses. The translation does not attempt to imitate the rhyme schemes or tonal patterns of the original poems which were written in Chinese classical style and in free verse, elegiac couplets and prose.

The poems can be divided thematically into two categories: fervent elegies to the Premier, and bitter attacks on the gang and their supporters. Those of the former type are imbued with an ardour (verging on the melodramatic at times) and a keen sensibility fired by an obviously deep love and respect for the Premier:

For you no monument is raised.

For you no plinth for statue laid.

Yet the monuments to you are legion,

Deeply rooted in the people's hearts.

Nine thousand strokes of lightning cannot strike them down,

Nor a twelve-force typhoon topple.

Deeply rooted in the people's hearts,

Your monument, more enduring than any one man-made!

(Commemoration Without a Monument)

Poems of the invective type accuse by name or easily identifiable symbol the various members of the gang. Use is made of homonyms, Chinese characters with similar pronunciation to substitute the real characters in the names intended. Naturally, these have not been brought out in the translation, but explanations are given in notes to the relevant pieces. Animal and demon images are also applied. Of these poems, the most famous is that written by a young factory worker from

Shaanxi Province. Accused of having written the "most counter-revolutionary" poem, he was hunted for throughout the country, but he managed to escape:

In my grief I hear demons shriek,

I weep while wolves and jackals laugh.

Though tears I shed to mourn a hero,

With head raised high, I draw my sword.

The play on words and sharp imagery of these poems are skilfully manipulated. They are subtly worked into the lines, but their implications are all too clear.

The artistic merit of the Tiananmen poems is by no means of the highest, since the large majority of these pieces were composed extempore and hastily posted up under great tension. But the profound political significance of the poems cannot be denied.

These unrestrained expressions of both the people's passion and their wrath through poetry lent a uniqueness to the mass demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. They demonstrate a rare instance of popular literature being used as a political weapon, and an effective one at that. The fact that the authors of these poems and those who copied them down and spread them were hunted as criminals by the gang's henchmen is added proof of their poignancy.

Such forceful literature written by ordinary students and workers has not been seen since the historic May 4th Movement of 1919. It has spurred a great many modern writers, especially among the young, to break away from the rigidity of classical Chinese verse and try their

hand at new forms, such as juxtapositions of old and new styles, of classical verse, free verse and prose poems. The Tiananmen poems thus marked the beginning of an era of literary experimentation.

The Tiananmen Poems, along with its preface supplying the background to the events of April 1976, vividly conveys the strained atmosphere in the country and the strength of popular emotion at that time. It is essential to the understanding of China's current political trend as well as her immediate literary development.

History as It Was

"Mao Zedong's Talks With Edgar Snow (1936)"

Mao Zedong's Talks With Edgar Snow (1936) (in Chinese) has recently been published by the People's Publishing House.

A record of the talks Comrade Mao Zedong had with Edgar Snow between June and October 1936, when the latter was visiting the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia revolutionary base areas, the book has five chapters: A Communist's Experiences, The Long March, On Resistance to Japanese Aggression, On the United Front and The Communist Party of China and World Affairs.

The book was edited by Wu Liping, who interpreted for Chairman Mao on these occasions. In the preface, Wu described the circumstances, which the talks took place, the historical background and contents of the talks.

He corrected some factual mistakes in that chapter entitled "A Communist's Experiences," for Comrade Mao Zedong had talked without notes. Wu also added some footnotes.

Because there were no official transcripts for some of the talks and other transcripts were later lost, the first two parts of the present edition were translated back into Chinese from Edgar Snow's *Red Star Over China* and last three from two English journals published at that time, *China Weekly Review* and *Amerasia*.

"A Communist's Experiences" is the most significant chapter as it contains the only existent biography of Comrade Mao Zedong. Earlier this Communist leader had stated his intention not to write an autobiography and he had seldom talked about his personal experiences even to his comrades-in-arms and friends. He agreed to tell his personal life history to Edgar Snow only after the latter's repeated requests.

"The Long March" is not in the form of a talk. It is based on Comrade Mao Zedong's description of the Long March and incorporates material which Edgar Snow collected from other Chinese comrades.

The last three chapters record Comrade Mao Zedong's analysis of the domestic and international situation at the time and his exposition of the Communist Party's programme for unity in the resistance against Japanese aggression. He also predicted that a full-scale war with Japan was inevitable. Many of the ideas expressed in the talks were borne out by later developments.

Literature From Taiwan Published

Taiwan literature has been published in the mainland of China for the first time since liberation. The People's Literature Publishing House recently put out *An*

Anthology of Taiwan Stories which contains 22 short stories and medium-length novels by 16 Taiwan writers in the last 50 years.

These stories describe the lives of office workers, intellectuals, industrialists and businessmen in Taiwan after World War II, reveal the Taiwan compatriots' longing for their hometowns on the mainland and show the spirit of patriotic Taiwan compatriots seeking liberation during the period of Japanese occupation.

Among the 16 writers are famous ones of the older generation like Wu Zhuoliu, Yang Kui, Zhong Lihe and Lin Hengdao, more modern younger ones such as Chen Yingzhen and Wang Zhenhe, and some who live in foreign countries like Yu Lihua, Bai Xianrong and Fang Fang. Some of the stories by Wu Zhuoliu, Yang Kui, Yang Qingchu and Bai Xianrong have been translated into English and Japanese.

The publication of this book helps promote the cultural interflow between the mainland and Taiwan. In the epilogue it is written: "We are looking forward to establishing cultural ties with Taiwan. We would like to see reciprocal visits and exchanges of publications. We also hope that Taiwan will publish and reprint publications from the mainland."

The People's Literature Publishing House has also issued *An Anthology of Taiwan Prose* which includes 32 articles by 23 Taiwan authors. Their writings describe the longing of Taiwan compatriots for their hometowns and relatives on the mainland, as well as the customs and life-style of people of various strata and scenic spots in Taiwan.

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